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JUNE 2009

State Transportation Board Elects New Commissioner

tate Representative Vance Smith, Jr., R-Pine Mountain, chairman of the House Transportation Committee has been named commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation. Smith was unanimously elected by the State Transportation Board. He will take office Thursday, June 25.

"I am honored and humbled to have been chosen and excited to start work," Smith said. "There are great challenges facing the Department; I see these challenges more as opportunities to make a good transportation system the best it can be. I look forward to working with the Board, the Governor, the General Assembly, our partner agencies and the experienced Georgia DOT staff to make these opportunities reality."

Board Chairman Bill Kuhlke, Jr., said the \$2.4 billion-per-year, 5,400-employee agency is fortunate to gain the leadership and perspective

of Smith. "Vance knows transportation and no one is more committed to improving it than he is. He understands this Department's greatest need is to have adequate resources to build and maintain a multimodal transportation system that will help alleviate congestion, promote safety and pave the way for the infrastructure and mobility necessary to promote economic development. He worked tirelessly for additional and much needed transportation funding, and his legislative acumen will help us secure it."

Smith succeeds Gerald Ross who has served as interim commissioner since February and who now will return to his previous position as the Department's chief engineer. "I can't say enough about the magnificent job Gerald has done under very difficult circumstances," Kuhlke commented. "We're very much indebted to him."



Commissioner Elect Vance Smith addresses the full board Thursday

BOARD ACTIVITY JUNE 17-18 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

New FY10 Officers were elected by the State Transportation Board. The group unanimously re-elected Bill Kuhlke, Jr., of Augusta, as its chairman for the coming year and similarly chose Board Member Rudy Bowen, of Suwanee, to serve as vice chairman. Kuhlke represents the 10th Congressional District; Bowen the 7th.

Kuhlke's and Bowen's one-year leadership terms will begin July 1. Kuhlke also is beginning his second five -year term as a member of the Board, whose 13 members serve as the governing body of the Georgia Department of Transportation; Bowen is midway through his first Board term.

The Board approved the letting of 35 projects, valued at \$290 million, for the July letting. Thirty-four of the projects are ARRA/Stimulus projects and one is a regular program design-build project. The Department is letting 27 of the projects, local governments are letting the remaining eight and 15 of the projects are in Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs). Additionally, the Board voted to approve the first group of projects in Phase 2 of ARRA so the Department can prepare them for an August letting.

Other agenda items of the Board included an update on the status of HOV to HOT on I-85, and a review of various legal items involving the Department. Six (6) of the Board Committees held meetings in advance of the full Board meeting; Commissioner Search, Equal Access, Intermodal and Finance, and a joint effort of the Alternative Financing/Program Delivery.

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act 2009 Update

Governor Perdue has officially certified all projects in Phase 1 to US-DOT Secretary Ray LaHood. All of Phase 1 projects have been let or are scheduled for letting next month.

The Department has successfully met the Federal requirement to obligate 50% (\$312 million) of the ARRA funds designated for transportation. Evaluation of projects for Phase 2 is ongoing, and the Board has approved the first group of projects to be sent to Governor Perdue for certification.

Project bids from Phase 1 lettings have averaged less money than anticipated. The Department worked with FHWA to ensure that any funds remaining due to lower contract amounts may be used towards additional projects eligible for stimulus dollars.

In addition to road and bridge projects, the Department has been awarded funds for aviation projects and transit projects. To date, Governor Perdue has certified 22 local transit system projects worth \$38 million.

Local airport projects were selected directly by the Federal Aviation Administration:

•Adel-Cook County Airport \$656,000 - Construct Parallel Taxiway

•Alma-Bacon County Airport \$734,000 - Construct Parallel Taxiway

\$890,000 - Rehabilitate Runway 3/21

•Brunswick-McKinnon-St. Simons Airport \$5,864,000 - Rehabilitation of Terminal Area Apron

•McRae-Telfair-Wheeler County Airport

•Peachtree City-Falcon Field Airport \$2,000,000 - Construct Area "C" Aircraft Parking Apron SAM WELLBORN
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BOARD ACTIVITY JULY 15-16—ATLANTA, GEORGIA

wanted to provide you with a brief update of the recent activities of the State Transportation Board. The Board held its regularly scheduled meetings on July 15th & 16th. In addition to the full Board meeting on July 16th, three committees met in advance: Equal Access; Alternative Financing; and Finance. Below are the highlights of these meetings.

Equal Access Committee met for the purpose of public comment in regards to the currently advertised DBE annual goal. This goal was developed using federal regulations, meetings, assembled data and required steps. GDOT encourages better connection between DBEs, primes and sub-contractors, and strives to ensure fair representation for all minorities in doing work on state contracts.

The floor was opened to allow for comments up to three minutes by individuals in the audience. Statements were made by Cynthia Jones-Parks of Jones Worley & Associates, Cocoa Dunston of Women's Business Association/Dunston Construction, George Galloway of Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance and Sonny Rincon of Georgia DBE Association.

<u>Alternative Financing Committee</u> reviewed changes needed to address the Public Private Partnership (P3) program under the new code section. The implementation plan was started over a month ago and is modeled after one being used in California. The plan will help identify a critical path to successful implementation and the final plan will be vetted by GDOT staff and the Board as a whole.

The goal is to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for P3 to include:

- Rules and regulations
- Internal administrative procedures
- P3 policies
- Staff, Board and stakeholder workshops
- Formulation of a work group to manage the day-to-day issues
- Screening and planning process for new projects
- Schedule of existing projects and decision points
- Template of procurement documents
- Public outreach and education
- Compilation of management tools and reference documents



State Transportation Board Members Brandon Beach, Johnny Floyd and Roy Herrington listening to staff presentations

During the <u>Finance Committee</u> meeting, Treasurer Kate Pfirman stated that the Department is closing out FY 2009 on a positive note. These figures are un-audited, but it appears that GDOT will end FY 2009 in budgetary compliance.

A brief comparison of the FY 2009 and FY 2010 budgets showed a \$150 million variance so funding challenges continue across all programs. There are numerous unfunded needs in FY 2010 including landscaping, mowing and unexpected items such as weather related emergencies.

A special resolution signed by the all the State Transportation Board members recognizing the excellent job Gerald Ross did for the Department while serving as Interim Commissioner was presented during the full Board meeting. Additionally, Commissioner Smith announced that he had chosen Ross to serve as Deputy Commissioner and Sandra Burgess as General Counsel for the Department. Ross will also continue in his capacity as Chief Engineer.

NEW STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEMBER ELECTED

Ocilla Businessman Sidney Ross to Represent CD8

Sidney Ross, of Ocilla, was elected Thursday to the State Transportation Board by a caucus of state representatives and senators from the 8th Congressional District. He will fill the remaining three years of the term of retired Board member Larry Walker.



Commissioner Vance Smith welcomes new Board Member Sidney Ross after his election at the Capitol by members of the General Assembly from Congressional District 8.

Ross, a Georgia native, is a successful business man who owned the road building company Ross of Georgia until 2007. He is married with five children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

"I am grateful for this opportunity," Ross said following the election. "I'm not much of a speaker. I'm really a doer. There is much to be accomplished at the Department of Transportation to ensure the agency serves the needs of all citizens."

The Georgia Department of Transportation is governed by the State Transportation Board. Its 13 members, representing each of the state's congressional districts, exercise general control and supervision of the Department. Each member serves a five-year term and the terms are staggered. Board members are elected by the state representatives and senators whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the congressional district.

LARP Identifies FY 2010 Projects

In July GDOT mailed out letters to all local governments in Georgia asking them to submit their requests for the 2010 Local Assistance Road Program (LARP). The 2010 program was funded \$60 million for the year.

All submittals were due back to the Department by August 1st. Commissioner Smith has directed staff to split the LARP funds into two lettings – one this Fall and one Spring 2010. The District Offices will be working with local governments to coordinate their submittals with the two lettings. Please contact the State Aid Coordinator in the appropriate District Office, or Terry Gable, State Aid Administrator, at tgable@dot.ga.gov.

2009-2010 Board Committee Chairs

Statewide Transportation Plan/Strategic
Planning -Robert Brown
Administrative - Steve Farrow
Equal Access - Johnny Floyd
Finance - Rudy Bowen
Intermodal - Dana Lemon
Legislative - Brandon Beach
P3 - David Doss
Program Delivery/Consultant Services/
Contractors - Bill Kuhlke
Transportation Agency Partners Emory McClinton